Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that in Section 6 of the Regulation, instead of the words 'under Section 4,' the words 'under Sections 4 and 5' be inserted. This is a necessary corollary to the omission of the first proviso to Section 5.

Seconded by Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. Vieyra.—In consequence of the recent amendment of Rules 5 and 6 of the Forest Rules, it is necessary to omit the first proviso to Section 5 of this Regulation, with which they are inconsistent. The Select Committee have recommended its omission in their Report. I beg to propose, therefore, that the following be added as Section 1 of the Bill and the other Sections re-numbered :—

"Omit the first proviso to Section 5."

Seconded by Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Mr. Muthunayagom Pillai then moved that the Bill be adjourned for final reading at a future meeting of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE TOWNS CONSERVANCY AND IMPROVEMENT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. A. J. Vieyra.—Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation Amendment Bill and to move that it be taken up for consideration at once.

Seconded by Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 1.

Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.—With the permission of the President, I beg to move that the words 'or the Peishkar of the Division when he is not the President' proposed to be inserted in Section 20 of the Regulation, be dropped. The creation of dual authority, as suggested, may be inconvenient in practice. Nor is there any great necessity for it. In all matters affecting human life, health or safety, the Division Peishkar has, in his capacity as District Magistrate, ample powers to interfere under the provisions contained in Chapters X and XI of the Code of Crimina Procedure. And if this is all that is intended to be served by the words proposed to be inserted, I see no harm in omitting them.

Seconded by Mr. M. Udaya Varma Raja.

Carried.

Section 2.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—With the President's permission, I beg to propose that the word 'shed' be inserted between the words 'any' and 'hut' in line 2 of clause (6) to Section 34 A. I think it is necessary to provide for the exemption of buildings which are meant for purely temporary purposes, as otherwise the law would work hardship to the public.

Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.—I am for exempting all sheds from the scope of this Section by a distinct statutory provision and would not leave the Committee to do so in each individual case. But at this stage, I would not press it but merely second the amendment of my learned friend.

Carried.

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Section 4.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—Again Sir, with your permission, I beg to state that the provision relating to burial and burning grounds, proposed to be introduced, appears to me defective and unworkable. It appears to me that the Regulation begins from the wrong end in making provision for the disposal of dead bodies. Section 69 of the existing Regulation makes provision for the closing of a burial or burning ground which is dangerous to the health of the public. The Section now proposed to be inserted says that no burial or burning ground, whether private or public, shall be opened or used, without a license. There is no other section besides these two, and there would be a difficulty, therefore, as to the use of the existing burial and burning grounds until licenses are obtained therefor. In my opinion, existing burning and burial grounds should be recognised as such and registered. Further, as in British India, the Municipality should provide a sufficient number of public burial and burning grounds when the registered ones are found inadequate. As the Section now stands, immediately the Bill becomes law, dead bodies could not be disposed of without a license. I therefore propose that at least the word 'new', which was in the original Bill and omitted by the Select Committee, be restored.

And I would further suggest that the Bill be re-committed to the Select Committee with instructions to make the further amendments that will be necessitated by the introduction of the word 'new.'

Seconded by Mr. M. Udaya Varma Raja.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost, the majority voting against it.

Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.—Sir, with your permission, I would propose that the provisions of the Madras District Muncipalities Act, Sections 235 to 237 and 239, relating to the disposal of corpses, be incorporated *mutatis mutandis*. This would, it seems to me, secure the object my friend Mr. Muthunayagom Pillai had evidently in view in making the amendment that has just been lost.

Seconded by Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.

This amendment also on being put to the vote was lost.

Mr. A. J. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the proviso to Section 4 of the Bill be recast as under so as to make the meaning clear:—

"Provided that no such license is necessary for the burial or cremation of their dead, in compounds measuring not less than one acre of ground, by families who, by recognised usage, bury or burn their dead in their own compounds."

Seconded by Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Mr. A. J. Vieyra.—Sir, with your permission, I beg to propose that a second proviso be added to Section 4 to the following effect:—

"Provided also that existing burial or burning grounds may be used without a license for a period of three months from the date of the passing of this Regulation."

This new provision will obviate the inconvenience pointed out by my friend Mr. Muthunayagom Pillai.

Seconded by Mr. A. Sri Narayanan Thampi.

Carried.

Section 8.

Mr. A. J. Vieyra.—Sir, with your permission, I beg to state that the time prescribed for giving information in cases of deaths, *viz.*, 24 hours, is too short, especially in this country, where among most people various rites have to be per-

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formed immediately on a person's death. In ordinary cases, I think three days may be allowed. I may, however, state that the Select Committee adopted this provision from the British Act in view of the necessity of immediate information being given in cases of death from infectious diseases. This, I think, is necessary and I do not propose to omit it. My amendment, therefore, is that Section 8 of the Bill be recast as follows:—

Information of death to be given.

"Some one of the persons present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of every person dying in the town, or, in the case of the death of all such persons, the occupier of the building, or, if the occupier be the person who has died, some one living in the building in which such death has happened, shall, within three days, give information to the Registrar, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, of the several particulars required to be known and registered touching the death of such person, except in the case of deaths from infectious diseases, when notice should be given within 24 hours."

Seconded by Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—I beg to move that the Sections of the Bill be re-arranged and re-numbered, as amendments to some of the earlier Sections of the Regulation appear in the Bill after those to some of the later Sections.

Seconded by Mr. N. Subramonia Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. A. J. Vieyra.—I propose that the Bill as now amended be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

Seconded by Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. K. P Sankara Menon.—Sir, I beg to propose that the Bill regarding Weights and Measures, with the Select Committee's Report thereon, may be adjourned for consideration at a future meeting.

Seconded by Mr. A. J. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council adjourned at 3. 15 P. M.

S. PADMANABHA AIYAR,
President.

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